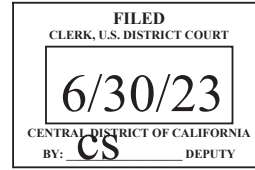


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SACV23-1188-HDV

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA ANA DIVISION

In re

EAGAN AVENATTI, LLP

Debtor.

Case No. 8:19-bk-13560-SC

Chapter 7

Adv. No. 8:20-ap-01150-SC

RICHARD A. MARSHACK, CHAPTER 7  
TRUSTEE FOR EAGAN AVENATTI, LLP

Plaintiff,

v.

HONDA AIRCRAFT COMPANY, LLC, a  
Delaware limited liability company,

Defendant.

UNITED STATES' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO  
APPEAL ORDER RE: § 6103 OBJECTION  
ENTERED ON JUNE 13, 2023

[No Hearing Required  
Pursuant to LBR 9013-1(p)]

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 158(a)(3) and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure ("FRBP") 8004, the United States of America ("United States"), on behalf of its Agency, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), hereby respectfully moves this Court for leave to appeal the bankruptcy court's Order

1 Re: § 6103 Objection entered on June 13, 2023, filed at Docket No. 75 (“Section 6103 Order”), a copy  
2 of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.<sup>1</sup>

3 This Motion is being filed concurrently with the Notice of Appeal filed on June 27, 2023, filed at  
4 Docket No. 84. In the event that the Court does not consider the Section 6103 Order to be a final order  
5 that is subject to direct appeal under the collateral order doctrine, the Government moves the district  
6 court to allow interlocutory appeal of the Section 6103 Order.

### 7 PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

8 By this motion, the United States asks this Court for leave to appeal the Section 6103 Order  
9 pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 8004 and 28 U.S.C. § 158(a)(3), which confers district courts with  
10 appellate jurisdiction over interlocutory orders with leave of the court. While 28 U.S.C. § 158(a)(3)  
11 specifies no criteria for granting such leave, courts often look to the prerequisites set forth in 28 U.S.C.  
12 § 1292(b) to determine whether to allow an interlocutory appeal. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b),  
13 leave to appeal an interlocutory order should be granted when the order involves (1) a question of law  
14 that is controlling; (2) as to which there is a substantial ground for difference of opinion; and (3) an  
15 immediate appeal of which would materially advance the ultimate termination of the litigation. *In re*  
16 *Cement Antitrust Litig. (MDL No. 296)*, 673 F.2d 1020, 1026 (9th Cir. 1981); *Reese v. BP Expl.*  
17 *(Alaska) Inc.*, 643 F.3d 681 (9th Cir. 2011); and *ICTSI Or., Inc. v. Int’l Longshore & Warehouse Union*,  
18 22 F.4th 1125 (9th Cir. 2022) *see also In re NSB Film Corp.*, 167 B.R. 176, 180 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1994).  
19 For the reasons set forth below, all these factors are present here. Accordingly, the United States moves  
20 the district court for an entry of an order pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 8004 and 28 U.S.C. § 158(a)(3)  
21 granting leave to appeal the Section 6103 Order.

### 22 FACTUAL BACKGROUND

23 By an order dated June 13, 2023, the Court overruled the Government's 26 U.S.C. § 6103  
24 objections to a Rule 45 non-party discovery subpoena served on the IRS by the Trustee in this case. A  
25 copy of the Section 6103 Order is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Section 6103 Order followed  
26 supplemental briefing by the United States and the Trustee regarding whether Section 6103 barred the  
27

---

28 <sup>1</sup> The Government is appealing the Section 6103 Order filed at Docket No. 75 with respect to  
the Section 6103 issues. The Government is not appealing any other issue that is described in the  
Section 6103 Order filed at Docket No. 75.

1 disclosure of Michael Avenatti's private tax return information to the Trustee. The Government's  
2 supplemental briefing argued that Michael Avenatti's tax return information could not be disclosed  
3 because the underlying adversary proceeding was not a matter of federal tax administration under  
4 Section 6103, and Michael Avenatti was not a party to the suit. The supplemental briefing was in  
5 addition to the Government's Opposition, which included its Section 6103 objections, to the Trustee's  
6 Motion for Issuance of an Order to Show Cause re Contempt Against Internal Revenue Service for  
7 Failure to Comply with Document and Deposition Subpoenas. In its Section 6103 Order, the  
8 bankruptcy court, however, overruled the Government's objections, and held as a matter of law the  
9 underlying matters were matters involving federal tax administration, even though in its order it found  
10 that no federal tax questions were at issue.

11 On June 27, 2023, because the Section 6103 Order has the potential to negatively affect federal tax  
12 administration, the United States filed a Notice of Appeal of the Section 6103 Order, a copy of which is  
13 attached hereto as Exhibit B.

#### 14 QUESTION PRESENTED

15 Did the bankruptcy court err, as a matter of law, when it held that the Trustee's adversary  
16 proceeding(s), in which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Michael Avenatti are not parties, were  
17 matters involving "tax administration" under 26 U.S.C. 6103(h), thereby clearing the way for the  
18 disclosure of Michael Avenatti's private tax return information in the hands of the IRS to the Trustee,  
19 pursuant to a Rule 45 non-party subpoena served on the IRS.

#### 20 ARGUMENT

21 If the district court determines that Section 6103 Order is not a final order, the district court has  
22 jurisdiction to hear an appeal of the subject Section 6103 Order as an interlocutory order of the  
23 bankruptcy court if the district court grants leave to appeal. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 158(a); Fed. R. Bankr. P.  
24 8002, 8004(a)(2)(b). Section 158(a) of title 28 of the United States Code grants district courts  
25 jurisdiction to hear appeals from interlocutory orders issued by a bankruptcy court at their discretion.  
26 *See* 28 U.S.C. § 158(a)(3) (noting that a district court shall have jurisdiction to hear appeals "from  
27 interlocutory orders and decrees, of bankruptcy judges entered in cases and proceedings referred to the  
28 bankruptcy judges under" 28 U.S.C. § 157 (internal citation omitted))). Although Section 158(a) is  
silent on the question of how this discretion is to be exercised, courts look to the factors set forth in 28

U.S.C. § 1292, which define the scope of appellate jurisdiction over interlocutory appeals from the district courts. *See In re Belli*, 268 B.R. 851, 858 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2001) 858; *In re Wilson*, No. BR 13-11374 AJ, 2014 WL 122074, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 10, 2014).

Thus, leave to appeal is an exercise of judicial discretion which is dependent on the circumstances of the particular case. Courts consider the following factors when deciding whether to grant leave to appeal under Bankruptcy Rule 8004: (1) the appeal involves a controlling question of law as to which there is (2) substantial ground for difference of opinion and (3) when an immediate appeal from the order may materially advance the ultimate termination of the litigation. 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b); *In re Cement Antitrust Litig.*, 673 F.2d 1020, 1026 (9th Cir. 1981); *see also In re NSB Film Corp.*, 167 B.R. 176, 180 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1994).

Because each of these factors weighs in favor of leave to appeal, this Court should grant the Government's motion for leave to appeal the Section 6103 Order.

### **There Is a Controlling Question of Law**

This appeal involves a controlling question of law. A controlling question of law must be one of law—not fact—and its resolution must “materially affect the outcome of litigation in the district court.” *ICTSI Or., Inc. v. Int'l Longshore & Warehouse Union*, 22 F.4th 1125 (9th Cir. 2022) (quoting from *In re Cement Antitrust Litig. (MDL No. 296)*, 673 F.2d 1020, 1026 (9th Cir. 1981)). It is not necessary that “reversal of the district court's order terminate the litigation.” *Id.* Controlling questions of law include “fundamental” issues such as “ ‘the determination of who are necessary and proper parties, whether a court to which a cause has been transferred has jurisdiction, or whether state or federal law should be applied.’ ” *Id.* at 1026–27 (quoting *United States v. Woodbury*, 263 F.2d 784, 787 (9th Cir.1959)).

Here, the bankruptcy court's Section 6103 Order presents a pure question of law, namely is the Trustee's fraudulent conveyance adversary proceeding a matter involving federal “tax administration” under 26 U.S.C. § 6103. There is no dispute as to the underlying facts relied upon by the bankruptcy court to reach its erroneous decision. Further, resolving this issue now, before the entry of a final judgment will materially affect the course of the litigation. Hearing this interlocutory appeal will spare the Government from contempt, and will stop further litigation in the case over whether the Government must disclose the statutorily protected tax return information of Michael Avenatti to the

Trustee or other parties to the litigation. Because this is a “pure legal question” involving no factual issues, an interlocutory appeal is especially appropriate. *See Steering Comm. v. United States*, 6 F.3d 572, 575–76 (9th Cir.1993); *see also Ahrenholz v. Board of Trustees of the Univ. of Ill.*, 219 F.3d 674, 675–77 (7th Cir.2000) (noting that the term “ ‘question of law’ means an abstract legal issue rather than an issue of whether summary judgment should be granted”). Accordingly, the first prong of the test has been satisfied.

### **There Is Substantial Ground for Difference of Opinion**

Second, the Court must determine whether there is a substantial ground for difference of opinion on the issue to be certified. *See In re Cement Antitrust Litig.*, 673 F.2d at 1026. The “substantial grounds” prong is satisfied when “novel legal issues are presented, on which fair-minded jurists might reach contradictory conclusions.” *ICTSI Or., Inc. v. Int'l Longshore & Warehouse Union*, 22 F.4th 1125 (9th Cir. 2022) (quoting from *Reese v. BP Expl. (Alaska) Inc.*, 643 F.3d 681, 688 (9th Cir. 2011)). For example, this prong is satisfied if “the circuits are in dispute on the question and the court of appeals of the circuit has not spoken on the point, if complicated questions arise under foreign law, or if novel and difficult questions of first impression are presented.” *ICTSI Or., Inc. v. Int'l Longshore & Warehouse Union*, 22 F.4th 1125 (9th Cir. 2022) (quoting from *Couch v. Telescope Inc.*, 611 F.3d 629, 633 (9th Cir. 2010)). However, the district court need not “await[ ] development of contradictory precedent” before concluding that the question presents a “substantial ground for difference of opinion.” *Reese*, 643 F.3d at 688.

This second prong of the test is also met. Although the Government has not identified a clear disagreement among courts, the Section 6103 Order that the Trustee’s fraudulent conveyance action is a matter of tax administration is contrary to the plain language of the statute and related regulations. Further, courts have held, contrary to the bankruptcy court, that in similar circumstances that tax return information of a non-party such as Michael Avenatti cannot be disclosed. *See Gardner v. United States*, 213 F.3d 735, 738 (D.C. Cir. 2000); *Silver I*, 2021 WL 1177998 (D.D.C. Mar. 28, 2021), *Silver v. United States*, 2023 WL 1100747, at \*6 (D.D.C. Jan. 30, 2023); and *Norman E. Duquette, Inc. v. Comm'r of Internal Revenue Serv.*, 110 F. Supp. 2d 16, 20 (D.D.C. 2000). Essentially, the Section 6103 Order presents a novel and far-reaching interpretation of the scope and breath of permissible Section 6103 disclosures and should be reviewed on interlocutory appeal.

**An Immediate Appeal Would Materially Advance the Ultimate Termination of the Litigation**

An immediate appeal of the Section 6103 Order will materially advance the ultimate termination of the subject litigation. The “materially advance” prong is satisfied when the resolution of the question “may appreciably shorten the time, effort, or expense of conducting” the court proceedings. *In re Cement*, 673 F.2d at 1027. Further, with respect to the third prong of the test, there are no set criteria a court is required to consider when evaluating whether an interlocutory appeal will materially advance the litigation and courts apply pragmatic considerations to determine whether certifying non-final orders will materially advance the ultimate termination of the litigation. *See Beeman v. Anthem Prescription Mgmt., Inc.*, 2007 WL 8433884, at \*2 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 2, 2007) (citing from *see e.g., FDIC v. First Nat. Bank of Waukesha, Wis.*, 604 F.Supp. 616, 620 (E.D.Wis.1985); and *SCM Corp. v. Xerox Corp.*, 474 F.Supp. 589, 593 (D.Conn.1979)).

The third prong of the test is met here, in that hearing the interlocutory appeal will significantly shorten the time, effort, and expense of the pending litigation. Here, there is little doubt that the dispute over whether the IRS must disclose Michael Avenatti’s tax return and return information to the Trustee has already placed a burden on the parties and the court. Substantial time and resources have been devoted to the question. Forcing the Government to continue to litigate this question of law, will place it in legal jeopardy with the bankruptcy court, risking contempt, and having to further stake out its position in multiple rounds of motions, objections, and replies. Already, the Trustee is moving to take the deposition of the now retired Special Agent who led the criminal investigation of Michael Avenatti. This is separate from the Rule 45 subpoena served on the IRS which led to the Section 6103 Order. The Trustee has indicated that he will ask the Special Agent to reveal protected tax return information of Michael Avenatti. Hearing an interlocutory appeal of the Section 6103 Order will put a stop to the litigation over the Government’s obligation to protect tax return information in the hands of the IRS, an issue that has already placed great burden and expense on the parties and the court.

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**CONCLUSION**

WHEREFORE, because the United States has satisfied the factors for granting a motion for leave to appeal the Section 6103 Order, and for the reasons set forth herein and, in the interests of justice, the United States respectfully requests that this Court enter an order granting leave to appeal the Section Order and granting such other and further relief as is just and proper.

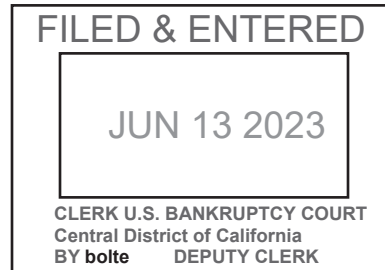
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Chief, Tax Division

Dated: June 27, 2023

/s/ Najah J. Shariff  
NAJAH J. SHARIFF  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Attorney for the United States of America

# EXHIBIT A





**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA ANA DIVISION**

In re:

Eagan Avenatti, LLP

Debtor(s).

Case No.: 8:19-bk-13560-SC

CHAPTER 7

Adv No: 8:20-ap-01150-SC

**ORDER (1) RE: § 6103 OBJECTION AND (2)  
SUSTAINING IN PART AND OVERRULING  
IN PART UNITED STATES' OBJECTION TO  
THE FORM OF THE TRUSTEE'S  
PROPOSED ORDER REGARDING  
DISCOVERY SOUGHT FROM THE  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE BY  
PLAINTIFF TRUSTEE**

Richard A. Marshack, Ch 7 Trustee,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

Honda Aircraft Company LLC

Defendant(s).

Date: May 30, 2023

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Courtroom: 5C - Virtual

The Court, having reviewed the Supplemental Brief of the United States Re: 26 U.S.C. § 6103 filed June 5, 2023 [Dk. 69] ("Supplemental Brief"), the Reply filed June 8, 2023 [Dk. 73] ("Reply"), the United States' Objection to the Form of the Trustee's

1 Proposed Order Regarding Discovery Sought From Internal Revenue Service by  
2 Plaintiff Trustee filed June 5, 2023 [Dk. 70] (“Objection”), and the docket as a whole,  
3 finds good cause, for the reasons set forth below, to enter the following order:

4 **I. 26 U.S.C. § 6103 Objection**

5 The Supplemental Brief and Reply were filed for consideration by the Court prior to  
6 its entry of an order in connection with the May 30, 2023, hearing on Plaintiff Trustee’s  
7 Motion for Issuance of an Order to Show Cause re Contempt Against Internal Revenue  
8 Service for Failure to Comply with Document and Deposition Subpoenas. The Court  
9 finds the Reply well-taken.

10 While the legal authority contained in the Supplemental Brief is correct, it presents a  
11 narrow view of the statute’s exception as interpreted by the persuasive, but non-binding,  
12 decisional authority cited by the Trustee.

13 The government asserts that Section 6103 prohibits the IRS from disclosing a  
14 taxpayer’s returns without explicit authority to do so. 26 USC 6103(a). Notwithstanding  
15 the foregoing prohibition, Section 6103(h)(4)(C) allows the IRS to disclose return  
16 information in a “judicial or administrative proceeding pertaining to tax administration...  
17 if such if such return or return information directly relates to a transactional relationship  
18 between a person who is a party to the proceeding and the taxpayer which directly  
19 affects the resolution of an issue in the proceeding.” 26 USC 6103(h)(4)(C).

20 The Code defines a tax administration proceeding as one including the  
21 “assessment, collection, enforcement, litigation” of the internal revenue laws. 26 USC  
22 6103(b)(4). The IRS asserts that the adversary proceeding does not meet this criteria  
23 because it is a private civil litigation case seeking evidence of fraudulent transfers  
24 related to a non-party (Michael Avenatti); however, the Trustee asserts that the  
25 adversary proceeding amounts to a judicial tax proceeding citing three cases for the  
26 proposition that the definition is broadly defined: *In re Lawrence*, 2016 WL 1039524  
27 (Bankr. D. Idaho Mar. 15, 2016); *In re Guidry*, 354 B.R. 824, 830 (Bankr. S.D. Tex.  
28 2006); and *Noske v. United States*, 1993 WL 264531, \*2, 998 F.2d 1018 (8th Cir. 1993),

1 affirming *Noske v. United States*, 1992 WL 235847 (D. Minn 1992). Each of the courts  
2 ascertained that the definition of a tax administration proceeding was broadly defined  
3 and concluded that a bankruptcy proceeding would fit the definition of a judicial  
4 proceeding under the code. See *Guidry*, 2006 Bank. LEXIS 3303 (“A bankruptcy  
5 proceeding is a federal judicial proceeding pertaining to tax administration... The  
6 substance of a judicial proceeding is determined prospectively, as of the initiation of the  
7 action. A debtor filed chapter 13 bankruptcy with the intent that all of the Debtor’s assets  
8 and liabilities will be determined and accounted for in a payment plan. This includes tax  
9 liability. The intent to adjudicate tax liability is inherent in the bankruptcy filing,  
10 regardless of the final outcome of the adjudication.”); *Noske*, 1992 U.S. Dist. LEXIS  
11 12261 (D. Minn. 1992) (“The disclosures obviously occurred in the course of a judicial  
12 tax proceeding” (referring to a wrongful levy suit filed by a third party against the United  
13 States related to IRS levies).); *Lawrence*, 2016 WL 1039524 (“Debtors are obviously a  
14 party to this chapter 11 judicial proceeding, and this proceeding is, inter alia, manifestly  
15 one that addresses and is ‘in connection with’ the determination and collection of  
16 Debtors’ civil tax liability. 26 U.S.C. § 6103(h)(4)(A).”)

17       The government argues that the foregoing cases are distinguishable. *Guidry* and  
18 *Lawrence* relate to the provision of party-returns (Michael Avenatti is a non-party to the  
19 litigation here). *Noske* relates to the provision of non-party returns; however, the  
20 government was a party to the underlying litigation in *Noske* (the IRS is not a party to  
21 the litigation here).

22       While government is correct that none of the cases are directly on point, each  
23 generally address the four factors to authorize the release of return information, which  
24 appear to be met here: 1) the disclosure occurs in a judicial tax proceeding; 2) the  
25 taxpayer has a transactional relationship with a party; 3) the transactional relationship  
26 directly affects the resolution of an issue in the proceeding; and 4) the disclosure  
27 directly relates to the transactional relationship between the party and the taxpayer. See  
28 *Noske* for the factors.

Briefly, the factors appear to be met as follows:

1. This adversary proceeding was filed by the Trustee seeking to avoid and recover transfers made by Debtor to defendant under 544. As part of the cause of action, the Trustee is permitted to “step into the shoes” of the IRS, asserting claims that he or she could have brought under applicable non-bankruptcy law.

2. Michael Avenatti (taxpayer) has a transactional relationship with Debtor (party) due to Michael Avenatti’s control of Debtor’s assets.

3. Michael Avenatti’s control of Debtor’s assets affects the resolution of the proceeding as the contention is that the fraudulent transactions at issue were directed by Michael Avenatti.

4. Finally, the disclosure relates to the party and the taxpayer as the return will determine if the extent of the alleged fraudulent transfers from Debtor directed by Michael Avenatti.

For the foregoing reasons, the government’s objection based upon 26 U.S.C. §6103 is overruled.

## **II. Objection to the form of the Order**

Having reviewed the Objection, the Court overrules it in part, and sustains in part, as set forth in the contemporaneously entered order.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Date: June 13, 2023

  
Scott C. Clarkson  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

# EXHIBIT B

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8 Attorneys for the United States of America  
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10 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
11 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
12 SANTA ANA DIVISION

13 In re

14 EAGAN AVENATTI, LLP

15 Debtor.  
16

Case No. 8:19-bk-13560-SC

Chapter 7

Adv. No. 8:20-ap-01150-SC

17 RICHARD A. MARSHACK, CHAPTER 7  
18 TRUSTEE FOR EAGAN AVENATTI, LLP

19 Plaintiff,

20 v.

21 HONDA AIRCRAFT COMPANY, LLC, a  
22 Delaware limited liability company,

23 Defendant.  
24

UNITED STATES' NOTICE OF APPEAL  
AND STATEMENT OF ELECTION

25 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that non-party the United States of America (the "United States"),  
26 on behalf of its Agency, the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), appeals from the Bankruptcy Court's  
27 Order Re: § 6103 Objection entered on June 13, 2023, filed at Docket No. 75, a copy of which is  
28

attached as Exhibit A (“Section 6103 Order”), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §158(a) and Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 8003(a).<sup>1</sup>

PARTY TO THE APPEAL

The names of the parties to the appeal, along with the contact information for their respective attorneys, are as follows:

<u>Party to the Appeal</u>	<u>Attorney of Record</u>
1) Richard A. Marshack, Chapter 7 Trustee for Eagan Avenatti, LLP (“Trustee”)	John P. Reitman jreitman@landaufirm.com Monica Rieder mrieder@landaufirm.com Landau Law LLP 141 South Windsor Blvd. Los Angeles, California 90004 Telephone: (310) 557-0050 Facsimile: (310) 557-0056
2) United States of America (“United States”)	Najah J. Shariff, Esq. najah.shariff@usdoj.gov Assistant United States Tax United States Attorney's Office 300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 7211 Los Angeles, California 90012 Telephone: (213) 894-2534

INTRODUCTION

The Trustee has served on the IRS a Rule 45 subpoena in the subject adversary proceeding that seeks, among other things, private “tax return and return information” of Michael Avenatti, as defined by 26 U.S.C. § 6103. The IRS and Michael Avenatti are not parties to the subject adversary proceeding, and the determination of federal tax matters is not at issue. The United States on behalf of its agency the IRS, the custodian and holder of Michael Avenatti private tax information, has objected to the disclosure of this information because Michael Avenatti has not consented to the disclosure of the tax information, and accordingly, under Section 6103, Congress has directed that the information must

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<sup>1</sup> The United States is appealing the Section 6103 Order filed at Docket No. 75 with respect to the Section 6103 issues only. The Government is not appealing any other issue that is described in the Section 6103 Order filed at Docket No. 75.

1 not be disclosed. On June 13, 2023, in a written order, the Bankruptcy Court overruled the  
2 Government's objection, finding as a matter of law that the Trustee's adversary proceeding is a judicial  
3 proceeding involving "tax administration" under Section 6103, thereby clearing the way for the  
4 disclosure of the Avenatti private tax information, pursuant to the Rule 45 subpoena served on the IRS.  
5 See attached Exhibit A. However, because as a matter of law, the subject judicial proceeding does not  
6 involve federal tax administration, the court's order must be reversed. The Section 6103 Order strikes  
7 at the heart of Congress' clear intention to substantially limit the disclosure of private tax return  
8 information in the hands of the IRS, and if left unchallenged will undermine a bedrock principle of  
9 federal tax administration, that taxpayer tax return information is to be kept secret except in limited  
10 circumstances defined by the controlling statute, 26 U.S.C. § 6103. The Government has not disclosed  
11 Michael Avenatti's private tax return information, and seeks direct appeal to protect the integrity of tax  
12 administration.

13 STATEMENT OF ISSUE ON APPEAL

14  
15 Did the Bankruptcy Court err, as a matter of law, when it held that the Trustee's subject  
16 adversary proceeding, in which the IRS and Michael Avenatti are not parties, were matters involving  
17 "tax administration" under 26 U.S.C. § 6103(h), thereby clearing the way for the disclosure of Michael  
18 Avenatti's private return and return information to the Trustee, pursuant to a Rule 45 non-party  
19 subpoena served on the IRS.

20 STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

21 For the reasons set forth below, the Bankruptcy Court's Section 6103 Order overruling the  
22 Government's 26 U.S.C. § 6103 objections is a final order that is subject to direct appeal under the  
23 collateral order doctrine.<sup>2</sup>

24 JURISDICTION VESTS UNDER THE COLLATERAL ORDER DOCTRINE

25 Under 28 U.S.C. § 1291, courts have jurisdiction over "appeals from all final decisions of the  
26 district courts." *United States v. Academy Mortgage Corporation*, 968 F.3d 996, 1002 (9th Cir. 2020).

27  
28 <sup>2</sup> The Government is filing concurrently with this Notice of Appeal, a Motion for Leave to  
Appeal Order Re: § 6103 Objection entered on June 13, 2023, filed at Docket No. 75. This Motion for  
Leave is being filed as an alternative to the Notice of Appeal as of right, in the event that the Court  
disagrees with the Government and determines that the Section 6103 Order entered on June 13, 2023,  
filed at Docket No. 75, is not going to be treated as a final order, but rather an interlocutory order.



1 The general rule is that discovery orders are interlocutory in nature and nonappealable under Section 1291.  
2 *KL Group v. Case, Kay & Lynch*, 829 F.2d 909, 918 n. 5 (9th Cir.1987) (citations omitted). But final  
3 decisions also encompasses “a small set of prejudgment orders that are ‘collateral to’ the merits of an  
4 action and ‘too important’ to be denied immediate review.” *Mohawk Indus., Inc. v. Carpenter*, 558 U.S.  
5 100, 103 (2009) (quoting *Cohen v. Beneficial Indus. Loan Corp.*, 337 U.S. 541, 546 (1949)). This has  
6 become known as the “collateral order doctrine.”

7 Under the collateral order doctrine, an order is immediately appealable if it: (1) conclusively  
8 determines the disputed question; (2) resolves an important issue completely separate from the merits of  
9 the action; and (3) is effectively unreviewable on appeal from a final judgment. *See Cohen v. Beneficial*  
10 *Indus. Loan Corp.*, 337 U.S. 541 (1949); *see also Mohawk Indus., Inc. v. Carpenter*, 558 U.S. 100,  
11 105 (2009). If one element of this test is not met, there is no basis for immediate appeal. *Truckshop.net,*  
12 *LLC v. Sprint Corp.* 547 F.3d 1065, 1068 (9th Cir. 2008).

13 These conditions are “stringent,” *Digital Equip. Corp. v. Desktop Direct, Inc.*, 511 U.S. 863,  
14 868, (1994), and efforts to expand the scope of the collateral order doctrine have been repeatedly  
15 rebuffed. *Will v. Hallock*, 546 U.S. 345, 350 (2006). The Supreme Court, however, has held that under  
16 the collateral order doctrine a party may appeal from a “narrow class of decisions that do not terminate  
17 the litigation, but must, in the interest of achieving a healthy legal system, nonetheless be treated as  
18 final.” *Digital Equip. Corp. v. Desktop Direct, Inc.*, 511 U.S. 863, 867 (1994) (internal citation and  
19 quotation marks omitted). Although the collateral order rule has been applied in a variety of  
20 circumstances, courts have generally denied review of pretrial discovery orders because they are not  
21 final. *See In re National Mortgage Equity Corp. Mortgage Pool Certificates Litig.*, 821 F.2d 1422, 1423  
22 (9th Cir. 1987)(no appellate jurisdiction over court's order granting motion to compel the production of  
23 documents from third-party witness). Because the Section 6103 Order strikes at the heart of tax  
24 administration, and cannot be narrowly viewed as a standalone discovery order, the district court should  
25 grant a direct appeal.  
26

27 Applying the collateral order three part test, firstly, the Section 6103 Order conclusively  
28 determines the disputed question, namely that Michael Avenatti’s tax return and return information,  
now in the hands of the IRS, is subject to disclosure to the Trustee without the consent of Michael

1 Avenatti. The Section 6103 Order leaves nothing further to be determined. It erroneously finds, as a  
2 matter of law, that the Trustee's adversary proceeding against an unrelated third party involves federal  
3 tax administration under Section 6103, while acknowledging no federal tax question is at issue. This  
4 erroneous finding was reached after supplemental briefing was ordered by the Court and filed by the  
5 Government and the Trustee on the specific question of whether Michael Avenatti's private tax return  
6 and return information was subject to disclosure to the Trustee in violation of Section 6103. The  
7 Section 6103 Order conclusively (and erroneously) holds that it is subject to disclosure, and therefore  
8 meets the first prong of the collateral order test.

9         Second, there can be no doubt that the Court's Section 6103 Order implicates an important right,  
10 and a bedrock principle of federal tax administration, namely that the taxpayer tax return information in  
11 the hands of the IRS shall remain secret and secure, except in limited circumstances. This principle,  
12 which is completely separate from the merits of the Trustee's fraudulent conveyance action, is  
13 important to defend in the current litigation and as a guiding principle of federal tax administration. If  
14 left unchallenged, the Court's Section 6103 Order, which essentially holds that Section 6103 veil of  
15 secrecy is cast aside whenever the IRS files a proof of claim in a bankruptcy case, has the potential to  
16 undermine federal tax administration. For this reason, and because of the importance of the issue at  
17 stake in the Section 6103 Order, the second prong of the collateral order test has been satisfied.

18         Third, the Section 6103 Order is effectively unreviewable from a final judgment in the Trustee's  
19 adversary proceeding. Final judgment will resolve the Trustee's dispute with the unrelated third parties  
20 regarding avoidance and recovery of certain transfers, and the Section 6103 issue will not be part of that  
21 judgment. There will be nothing in the final judgment for the Government to appeal relating to the  
22 Section 6103 issue. Further, a post judgment appeal by the Government would not provide an effective  
23 remedy for the damage caused to tax administration by the Court's Section 6103 Order. *See Perry v.*  
24 *Schwarzenegger* 591 F.3d 1147, 1157-58 (9th Cir. 2010). And delaying review until entry of a final  
25 judgment will undermine the public's interest in keeping tax return information secure and secret,  
26 except in limited circumstances. *Id.* This is not simply a matter of disclosing otherwise protected  
27 information, as in the case of attorney-client communications, the Bankruptcy Court's Section 6103  
28 Order undermines a bedrock principle of tax administration, and appeal should not be delayed. Here,

1 denying an immediate appeal and delaying review until the entry of final judgment would “imperil a  
2 substantial public interest,” or “some particular value of a high order” and, for this reason, the third  
3 prong of the collateral order test has been met. *See Mohawk Indus. Inc. v. Carpenter* 558 U.S. at 100-  
4 101 (quoting *Will v. Hallock*, 546 U.S. at 352-53).

5 The United States asserts that the Section 6103 Order meets all three requirements under the  
6 collateral order doctrine. It is not reasonable to ask the United States to violate Section 6103 and  
7 disclose return and return information of a third party in a case in which Michael Avenatti is not a  
8 party, and has not consented to the disclosure. The Court is requesting the Government to do a legal  
9 impossibility. “The claims are too important to be denied review and too independent of the cause  
10 itself to require that appellate consideration be deferred until the whole case is adjudicated.” *Will v.*  
11 *Hallock*, 546 U.S. 345, 349 (2006)) (internal quotation marks omitted). Thus, an immediate appeal  
12 under the collateral order doctrine is justified in this case.

#### 13 FINALITY OF BANKRUPTCY ORDERS IN CONTRAST TO CIVIL ORDERS

14 Under section 158(a)(1), parties may appeal to a district court “final” orders in bankruptcy cases  
15 and proceedings “as of right.” 28 U.S.C. § 158(a)(1); *see Ritzen Grp., Inc. v. Jackson Masonry, LLC*,  
16 140 S. Ct. 582, 587 (2020); *Bullard v. Blue Bills Bank*, 575 U.S. 496 (2015). In the context of an  
17 adversary proceeding, an order is final if it would be considered an appealable final order in an ordinary  
18 federal civil action under 28 U.S.C. § 1291. *In re Belli*, 268 B.R. 851, 855 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2001)  
19 (“Finality for purposes of jurisdiction over ‘as of right’ appeals under 28 U.S.C. § 158(a)(1) in  
20 adversary proceedings does not differ from finality in ordinary federal civil actions under 28 U.S.C. §  
21 1291.”). Section 158 provides the appellate court with jurisdiction over orders in bankruptcy cases that  
22 alter “the legal relationships among the parties.” *Bullard*, 575 U.S. at 506. Therefore, to determine  
23 whether a particular order is final, the court examines “whether the bankruptcy court's decision: ‘1)  
24 resolves and seriously affects substantive rights and 2) finally determines the discrete issue to which it  
25 is addressed.’ ” *In re Gugliuzza*, 852 F.3d 884, 894 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting *In re Perl*, 811 F.3d 1120,  
26 1126 (9th Cir. 2016)).  
27

28 “In contrast to ‘ordinary civil litigation,’ the rules of finality in bankruptcy are somewhat  
relaxed.” *In re Mayer*, 28 F.4th 67, 70 (9th Cir. 2022) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

1 The Ninth Circuit has held that “the fluid and sometimes chaotic nature of bankruptcy proceedings  
2 necessitates a degree of jurisdictional flexibility.” *In re Landmark Fence Co., Inc.*, 801 F.3d 1099, 1102  
3 (9th Cir. 2015). In assessing whether an order is “final” for purposes of 28 U.S.C. § 158, the Ninth  
4 Circuit has adopted a “pragmatic approach...” to finality in bankruptcy and focuses on whether the  
5 decision appealed from effectively determined the outcome of the case, and courts use “a more flexible  
6 standard.” *In re Perl*, 811 F.3d 1120, 1125 (9th Cir. 2016) (internal quotation marks and citation  
7 omitted). “This is because a bankruptcy case encompasses numerous individual controversies, many of  
8 which would exist as stand-alone lawsuits but for the bankrupt status of the debtor.” *In re Mayer*, 28  
9 F.4th at 70 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted, alterations normalized). “Thus, orders in  
10 bankruptcy cases qualify as ‘final’ when they definitively dispose of discrete disputes within the  
11 overarching bankruptcy case.” *Id.*; *see also In re Marino*, 949 F.3d 483, 487 (9th Cir. 2020) (“An order  
12 in a bankruptcy proceeding is final and thus appealable is it alters the status quo and fixes the rights and  
13 obligations of the parties or alters the legal relationship among the parties.” (internal quotation marks  
14 and citation omitted, alterations, normalized)). “Congress has long provided that orders in bankruptcy  
15 cases may be immediately appealed if they finally dispose of discrete disputes within the larger case.”  
16 *Howard Delivery Service, Inc. v. Zurich American Ins. Co.*, 547 U.S. 651, 657, n.3 (2006) (internal  
17 quotation marks and emphasis omitted).  
18

19 As discussed above, under the Government’s collateral order analysis, the gravity and finality of  
20 the Bankruptcy Court’s Section 6103 Order warrants allowing a direct appeal in this case. The Section  
21 6103 Order meets the test for finality in the context of this adversary proceeding, and the Government’s  
22 appeal should be heard.

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

ELECTION TO HAVE APPEAL HEARD BY DISTRICT COURT

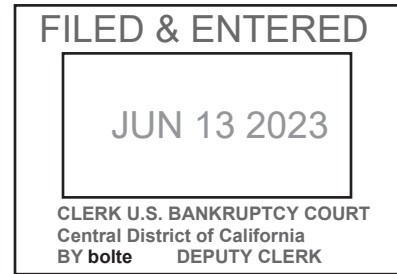
Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 158(a)(1) and (c)(1)(A) and the Federal Rule of Bankruptcy  
Procedure 8005(a), the United States elects to have the appeal of the Section 6103 Order filed at Docket  
No. 75, heard by the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

E. MARTIN ESTRADA  
United States Attorney  
THOMAS D. COKER  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Chief, Tax Division

Dated: June 27, 2023

/s/ Najah J. Shariff  
NAJAH J. SHARIFF  
Assistant United States Attorney  
Attorney for the United States of America

# EXHIBIT A



**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA ANA DIVISION**

In re:

Eagan Avenatti, LLP

Debtor(s).

Case No.: 8:19-bk-13560-SC

CHAPTER 7

Adv No: 8:20-ap-01150-SC

**ORDER (1) RE: § 6103 OBJECTION AND (2)  
SUSTAINING IN PART AND OVERRULING  
IN PART UNITED STATES' OBJECTION TO  
THE FORM OF THE TRUSTEE'S  
PROPOSED ORDER REGARDING  
DISCOVERY SOUGHT FROM THE  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE BY  
PLAINTIFF TRUSTEE**

Richard A. Marshack, Ch 7 Trustee,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

Honda Aircraft Company LLC

Defendant(s).

Date: May 30, 2023

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Courtroom: 5C - Virtual

The Court, having reviewed the Supplemental Brief of the United States Re: 26 U.S.C. § 6103 filed June 5, 2023 [Dk. 69] ("Supplemental Brief"), the Reply filed June 8, 2023 [Dk. 73] ("Reply"), the United States' Objection to the Form of the Trustee's

1 Proposed Order Regarding Discovery Sought From Internal Revenue Service by  
2 Plaintiff Trustee filed June 5, 2023 [Dk. 70] ("Objection"), and the docket as a whole,  
3 finds good cause, for the reasons set forth below, to enter the following order:

4 **I. 26 U.S.C. § 6103 Objection**

5 The Supplemental Brief and Reply were filed for consideration by the Court prior to  
6 its entry of an order in connection with the May 30, 2023, hearing on Plaintiff Trustee's  
7 Motion for Issuance of an Order to Show Cause re Contempt Against Internal Revenue  
8 Service for Failure to Comply with Document and Deposition Subpoenas. The Court  
9 finds the Reply well-taken.

10 While the legal authority contained in the Supplemental Brief is correct, it presents a  
11 narrow view of the statute's exception as interpreted by the persuasive, but non-binding,  
12 decisional authority cited by the Trustee.

13 The government asserts that Section 6103 prohibits the IRS from disclosing a  
14 taxpayer's returns without explicit authority to do so. 26 USC 6103(a). Notwithstanding  
15 the foregoing prohibition, Section 6103(h)(4)(C) allows the IRS to disclose return  
16 information in a "judicial or administrative proceeding pertaining to tax administration...  
17 if such if such return or return information directly relates to a transactional relationship  
18 between a person who is a party to the proceeding and the taxpayer which directly  
19 affects the resolution of an issue in the proceeding." 26 USC 6103(h)(4)(C).

20 The Code defines a tax administration proceeding as one including the  
21 "assessment, collection, enforcement, litigation" of the internal revenue laws. 26 USC  
22 6103(b)(4). The IRS asserts that the adversary proceeding does not meet this criteria  
23 because it is a private civil litigation case seeking evidence of fraudulent transfers  
24 related to a non-party (Michael Avenatti); however, the Trustee asserts that the  
25 adversary proceeding amounts to a judicial tax proceeding citing three cases for the  
26 proposition that the definition is broadly defined: *In re Lawrence*, 2016 WL 1039524  
27 (Bankr. D. Idaho Mar. 15, 2016); *In re Guidry*, 354 B.R. 824, 830 (Bankr. S.D. Tex.  
28 2006); and *Noske v. United States*, 1993 WL 264531, \*2, 998 F.2d 1018 (8th Cir. 1993),



1 affirming *Noske v. United States*, 1992 WL 235847 (D. Minn 1992). Each of the courts  
2 ascertained that the definition of a tax administration proceeding was broadly defined  
3 and concluded that a bankruptcy proceeding would fit the definition of a judicial  
4 proceeding under the code. See *Guidry*, 2006 Bank. LEXIS 3303 (“A bankruptcy  
5 proceeding is a federal judicial proceeding pertaining to tax administration... The  
6 substance of a judicial proceeding is determined prospectively, as of the initiation of the  
7 action. A debtor filed chapter 13 bankruptcy with the intent that all of the Debtor’s assets  
8 and liabilities will be determined and accounted for in a payment plan. This includes tax  
9 liability. The intent to adjudicate tax liability is inherent in the bankruptcy filing,  
10 regardless of the final outcome of the adjudication.”); *Noske*, 1992 U.S. Dist. LEXIS  
11 12261 (D. Minn. 1992) (“The disclosures obviously occurred in the course of a judicial  
12 tax proceeding” (referring to a wrongful levy suit filed by a third party against the United  
13 States related to IRS levies).); *Lawrence*, 2016 WL 1039524 (“Debtors are obviously a  
14 party to this chapter 11 judicial proceeding, and this proceeding is, inter alia, manifestly  
15 one that addresses and is ‘in connection with’ the determination and collection of  
16 Debtors’ civil tax liability. 26 U.S.C. § 6103(h)(4)(A).”)

17         The government argues that the foregoing cases are distinguishable. *Guidry* and  
18 *Lawrence* relate to the provision of party-returns (Michael Avenatti is a non-party to the  
19 litigation here). *Noske* relates to the provision of non-party returns; however, the  
20 government was a party to the underlying litigation in *Noske* (the IRS is not a party to  
21 the litigation here).

22         While government is correct that none of the cases are directly on point, each  
23 generally address the four factors to authorize the release of return information, which  
24 appear to be met here: 1) the disclosure occurs in a judicial tax proceeding; 2) the  
25 taxpayer has a transactional relationship with a party; 3) the transactional relationship  
26 directly affects the resolution of an issue in the proceeding; and 4) the disclosure  
27 directly relates to the transactional relationship between the party and the taxpayer. See  
28 *Noske* for the factors.

Briefly, the factors appear to be met as follows:

1. This adversary proceeding was filed by the Trustee seeking to avoid and recover transfers made by Debtor to defendant under 544. As part of the cause of action, the Trustee is permitted to “step into the shoes” of the IRS, asserting claims that he or she could have brought under applicable non-bankruptcy law.

2. Michael Avenatti (taxpayer) has a transactional relationship with Debtor (party) due to Michael Avenatti’s control of Debtor’s assets.

3. Michael Avenatti’s control of Debtor’s assets affects the resolution of the proceeding as the contention is that the fraudulent transactions at issue were directed by Michael Avenatti.

4. Finally, the disclosure relates to the party and the taxpayer as the return will determine if the extent of the alleged fraudulent transfers from Debtor directed by Michael Avenatti.

For the foregoing reasons, the government’s objection based upon 26 U.S.C. §6103 is overruled.

## **II. Objection to the form of the Order**

Having reviewed the Objection, the Court overrules it in part, and sustains in part, as set forth in the contemporaneously entered order.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Date: June 13, 2023

  
Scott C. Clarkson  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

## PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is:  
300 N. Los Angeles Street, Room 7211  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

A true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled (*specify*): United States' Notice of Appeal and Statement of Election will be served or was served **(a)** on the judge in chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and **(b)** in the manner stated below:

**1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF):** Pursuant to controlling General Orders and LBR, the foregoing document will be served by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (*date*) 06/27/2023, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the following persons are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated below:

☒ Service information continued on attached page

**2. SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL:**

On (*date*) \_\_\_\_\_, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

☐ Service information continued on attached page

**3. SERVED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY, OVERNIGHT MAIL, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL** (*state method for each person or entity served*): Pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on (*date*) 06/28/2023, I served the following persons and/or entities by personal delivery, overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to such service method), by facsimile transmission and/or email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that personal delivery on, or overnight mail to, the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

Honorable Judge Scott C. Clarkson (by Personal Delivery)  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Ronald Reagan Federal Building and Courthouse  
411 West Fourth Street, Suite 5130  
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4593

☐ Service information continued on attached page

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

06/27/2023  
*Date*

Barbara Le  
*Printed Name*

/s/ Barbara Le  
*Signature*

## PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT (Attachment)

### 1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF):

- **Robert J Im** robert.im@wilsonelser.com, irvineECF@mcglinchey.com
- **Richard A Marshack (TR)** pkraus@marshackhays.com, rmarshack@iq7technology.com;ecf.alert+Marshack@titlexi.com
- **Brian A Paino** bpaino@mcglinchey.com, irvineECF@mcglinchey.com
- **Jack A. Reitman** jareitman@gmail.com, srichmond@landaufirm.com;vrichmond@landaufirm.com;avedrova@landaufirm.com
- **John P. Reitman** jreitman@landaufirm.com, vrichmond@landaufirm.com;avedrova@landaufirm.com;hrichmond@landaufirm.com
- **Monica Rieder** mrieder@landaufirm.com, vrichmond@landaufirm.com;avedrova@landaufirm.com;hrichmond@landaufirm.com
- **Najah J Shariff** najah.shariff@usdoj.gov, USACAC.criminal@usdoj.gov
- **United States Trustee (SA)** ustpregion16.sa.ecf@usdoj.gov

## PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is:  
300 N. Los Angeles Street, Room 7211  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

A true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled (*specify*): United States' Motion for Leave to Appeal Order Re: § 6103 Objection Entered on June 13, 2023 will be served or was served **(a)** on the judge in chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and **(b)** in the manner stated below:

**1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF):** Pursuant to controlling General Orders and LBR, the foregoing document will be served by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (*date*) 06/27/2023, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the following persons are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated below:

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Honorable Judge Scott C. Clarkson (by Personal Delivery)  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Ronald Reagan Federal Building and Courthouse  
411 West Fourth Street, Suite 5130  
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4593

☐ Service information continued on attached page

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

06/27/2023  
*Date*

Barbara Le  
*Printed Name*

/s/ Barbara Le  
*Signature*

## PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT (Attachment)

### 1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF):

- **Robert J Im** robert.im@wilsonelser.com, irvineECF@mcglinchey.com
- **Richard A Marshack (TR)** pkraus@marshackhays.com, rmarshack@iq7technology.com;ecf.alert+Marshack@titlexi.com
- **Brian A Paino** bpaino@mcglinchey.com, irvineECF@mcglinchey.com
- **Jack A. Reitman** jareitman@gmail.com, srichmond@landaufirm.com;vrichmond@landaufirm.com;avedrova@landaufirm.com
- **John P. Reitman** jreitman@landaufirm.com, vrichmond@landaufirm.com;avedrova@landaufirm.com;hrichmond@landaufirm.com
- **Monica Rieder** mrieder@landaufirm.com, vrichmond@landaufirm.com;avedrova@landaufirm.com;hrichmond@landaufirm.com
- **Najah J Shariff** najah.shariff@usdoj.gov, USACAC.criminal@usdoj.gov
- **United States Trustee (SA)** ustpregion16.sa.ecf@usdoj.gov